
SENATE BILL 5548

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2007 Regular Session

By Senators Kline, Hargrove and Carrell

Read first time 01/23/2007. Referred to Committee on Human Services & Corrections.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating the probation services task force; and
2 creating new sections.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that there is a need
5 to provide statewide standards for adult and juvenile probation
6 officers supervising adult and juvenile misdemeanants.

7 RCW 43.101.220 requires the criminal justice training commission to
8 provide training for corrections personnel. The administrative
9 regulation that implements that statute, WAC 139-10-210, requires all
10 employees whose primary job function is the case management of
11 offenders under county or city supervision, such as probation officers,
12 to attend a misdemeanor probation/classification academy, which
13 includes assessment, case planning, counseling, supervision, and
14 monitoring.

15 However, while probation officers are required to complete these
16 educational requirements, there are currently no statewide
17 accreditation standards adopted to ensure uniformity in job
18 descriptions statewide. Adoption of statewide standards for adult and
19 juvenile probation officers may help to provide improved staff training

1 and development, better defense against lawsuits through improved
2 documentation, improved staff morale and professionalism, a safer
3 environment for staff and offenders, and potentially reduced liability
4 insurance costs.

5 Accordingly, the purpose of this act is to establish a task force
6 to adopt statewide accreditation standards for adult and juvenile
7 probation officers.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The probation services task force is
9 established.

10 (2) The task force shall be composed of the following members:

11 (a) A representative of the district and municipal court judges'
12 association;

13 (b) A representative of the municipal research and services center
14 of Washington; and

15 (c) A representative of the association of Washington cities.

16 (3) The task force shall convene by July 1, 2007. Upon convening,
17 the task force shall select a chair to preside over task force meetings
18 and a vice-chair to preside in the chair's absence.

19 (4) Staff to the task force shall be provided by the judiciary.
20 Upon request by the task force, any state agency shall provide
21 information within the scope of the task force's work.

22 (5) Members of the task force shall be reimbursed for travel
23 expenses under RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The task force, upon convening, shall
25 review and draft appropriate accreditation standards specifying the
26 functions and duties of probation officers supervising adult and
27 juvenile misdemeanants. The standards, which shall be developed to be
28 applied uniformly throughout the state, shall include but not be
29 limited to the following:

30 (a) Define caseload levels appropriate for each level of probation
31 officer;

32 (b) Define case management and probation services to offenders
33 referred by a municipal or district court;

34 (c) Define the types of probation services that are to be covered
35 by the standards, including alternative sentencing programs such as

1 electronic home monitoring, community service, day reporting, and other
2 types of programs as implemented to effectively manage jail population;

3 (d) Specify appropriate supervisory work responsibilities for each
4 level of probation officer, including distribution of caseload
5 functions and court referrals, workload organization and assignment,
6 monitoring of work completion, recommendations of work procedures,
7 assisting with hiring and evaluation processes, recommendations for
8 corrective action, and formulating and making recommendations to the
9 court on the dispensation of referred cases based on judgment of
10 individual circumstances; and

11 (e) Define appropriate case management responsibilities of
12 misdemeanor offenders, including meeting with offenders, probationers,
13 attorneys, and other interested parties; developing individual
14 treatment plans; performing skills assessment; identifying problems;
15 performing counseling; assisting probationers with participation in
16 positive activities; assessing social and psychological dysfunctions;
17 providing referrals to community services where appropriate; monitoring
18 compliance and investigating potential or actual violations; conducting
19 pre and postsentencing investigations and reports for the court;
20 testifying in court regarding probationer status as necessary; and
21 maintaining records and documentation required by the court or
22 statutes.

23 (2) In developing standards, the task force shall review
24 accreditation standards developed by the American correctional
25 association and any other appropriate standards in other states.

26 (3) The task force shall report its findings and recommendations to
27 the governor and the relevant committees of the legislature that deal
28 with judiciary issues by December 1, 2007; provided that the task force
29 shall not make any findings or recommendations regarding tort liability
30 standards for probation officers supervising adult or juvenile
31 misdemeanants.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The task force and its powers and duties
33 shall terminate June 30, 2008.

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